

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for outputting data read from a recording medium, said data read from the recording medium not containing electronic watermark information; comprising the steps of:

decoding the data read from the recording medium;
embedding electronic watermark information in the decoded data when the decoded data is selected as data to be subsequently recorded; and

preventing said electronic watermark information from being embedded in the decoded data when the decoded data is selected as data to be played back, thereby preventing degradation of the data for playback.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of determining a type of the recording medium and changing said electronic watermark information based on the type of the recording medium.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating at least a first generation recording is allowed when the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating recording is prohibited when the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating the data read from the recording medium when the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating the data is copied data when the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the type of the recording medium is determined by determining whether a pit wobbling portion is present on the recording medium.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information for analog data in the decoded data when the decoded data is output in an analog format.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the decoded data is converted into an analog signal, and the electronic watermark information for analog data is embedded in the analog signal.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising the steps of determining the type of the recording medium and changing the electronic watermark information for analog data based on the type of the recording medium.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating at least first generation recording is allowed when the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of embedding electronic

watermark information indicating recording is prohibited when the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating the data read from the recording medium when the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating the data is copied data when the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information for digital data when the decoded data is output in a digital format and is selected as the recording data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the steps of determining a type of the recording medium and changing the electronic watermark information for digital data based on the type of recording medium.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating at least first generation recording is allowed when the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating recording is prohibited when the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating the data read from the recording medium when the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating the data is copied data when the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of not embedding said

electronic watermark information in the decoded data when an operating key is operated to give a playback command to execute a play back operation in an apparatus that has loaded thereon the recording medium.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, further comprising the step of embedding said electronic watermark information in the decoded data when an operating key is operated to give a recording command to execute a recording operation in an apparatus that has loaded thereon the recording medium.

Claims 24-34 (Cancelled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended) A method for outputting data read from a recording medium, said data read from the recording medium not containing electronic watermark information; comprising the steps of:

detecting copy management information from the data read from the recording medium;

determining the detected copy management information;

embedding electronic watermark information in the data read from the recording medium according to the determined copy management information when the data read from the recording medium is selected as data to be subsequently recorded; and

preventing said electronic watermark information from being embedded in the data read from the recording medium according to the determined copy management information when the data read from the recording medium is selected as data to be played back, thereby preventing degradation of the data for playback.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information indicating recording is prohibited when the detected copy management information indicates at least first generation recording is allowed.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, further comprising the step of prohibiting the data read from the recording medium from being output as the data to be subsequently recorded when the detected copy management information is copy management information indicating recording is prohibited.

Claim 38 (Cancelled).

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information for analog data when the data read from

the recording medium is analog and is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 39, further comprising the steps of converting the data read from the recording medium into an analog signal and embedding the electronic watermark information for analog data in the analog signal.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, further comprising the step of embedding electronic watermark information for digital data when the data read from the recording medium is digital and is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claims 42-47 (Cancelled).

Claim 48 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for playing back a recording medium, comprising:

a head for reading data from the recording medium; said data read from the recording medium not containing electronic watermark information;

a decoder for decoding an output signal from said head; and
an adding unit and a selector-unit for embedding electronic watermark information in the data from said decoder when the

data from said decoder is selected as data to be subsequently recorded, wherein said adding unit prevents said electronic watermark information from being embedded in the data from said decoder when the data from said decoder is selected as data to be played back, thereby preventing degradation of the data for playback.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 48, further comprising:

a determination circuit for determining the type of the recording medium based on the output signal from said head,

wherein said adding unit adds said electronic watermark information according to the type of the recording medium based on said determination circuit.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information indicating at least one recording is allowed when said determination circuit determines that the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information indicating recording is prohibited when said

determination circuit determines that the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said adding unit includes a generation circuit for generating electronic watermark information according to said determination circuit and an adding circuit for adding the electronic watermark information generated by said generation circuit to the data from said decoder.

Claim 53 (Canceled)

Claim 54 (Canceled)

Claim 55 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information indicating the data read from the recording medium when said determination circuit determines that the recording medium is a read-only recording medium.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information indicating data is copied data when said determination circuit determines that the recording medium is a recordable recording medium.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said determination unit determines the type of the recording medium by determining whether a wobbled pit is detected from the output signal from said head.

Claim 58 (Cancelled).

Claim 59 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information according to an output format of the data from said decoder when the data from said decoder is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 59, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information for analog data when the data from said decoder is an analog signal and the data from said decoder is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 60, further comprising a converter for converting the data from said decoder into an analog signal, wherein said adding unit includes a generation circuit for generating the electronic watermark information for analog data, and an adding circuit for

adding the generated electronic watermark information for analog data in the analog signal from said converter.

Claim 62 (Canceled)

Claim 63 (Canceled)

Claim 64 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 59, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information for digital data when the data from said decoder a digital signal and the data from said decoder is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 64, wherein said adding unit includes a generation circuit for generating the electronic watermark information for digital data, and an adding circuit for adding the generated electronic watermark information for digital data to the data from said converter.

Claim 66-79 (Cancelled).

Claim 80 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for playing back a recording medium, comprising:

a head for reading data from the recording medium; said data read from the recording medium not containing electronic watermark information;

a detector for detecting copy management information from an output signal from said head; and

an adding unit and a selector unit for adding electronic watermark information according to the detected copy management information to the data read from the recording medium when the data read from the recording medium is selected as data to be subsequently recorded, wherein said adding unit prevents said electronic watermark information from being added to the data read from the recording medium when the data from the recording medium is selected as data to be played back, thereby preventing degradation of the data for playback.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 80, wherein said adding unit includes a generation circuit for generating electronic watermark information according to said detector and an adding circuit for adding the electronic watermark information generated by said generation circuit to the data read from the recording medium.

Claim 82 (Canceled)

Claim 83 (Canceled)

Claim 84 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 81, wherein said generation circuit generates electronic watermark information indicating recording is prohibited when the copy management information detected by said detector is copy management information indicating at least one recording is allowed.

Claim 85 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 80, wherein a controller prohibits the data read from the recording medium from being output as the recording data when the copy management information detected by said detector is copy management information indicating recording is prohibited.

Claim 86 (Cancelled).

Claim 87 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 80, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information according to an output format of the data read from the recording medium when the data read from the recording medium is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 88 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 87, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information for analog data when the data read from the

recording medium is output as an analog signal and the data read from the recording medium is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 89 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 88, further comprising a converter for converting the data read from the recording medium into an analog signal, wherein said adding unit includes a generation circuit for generating the electronic watermark information for analog data, and an adding circuit for adding the generated electronic watermark information for analog data to the analog signal from said converter.

Claim 90 (Canceled)

Claim 91 (Canceled)

Claim 92 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 87, wherein said adding unit adds electronic watermark information for digital data when the data read from the recording medium is output as a digital signal and the data read from the recording medium is selected as the data to be subsequently recorded.

Claim 93 (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 92, wherein said adding unit includes a generation circuit for generating the electronic watermark information for digital data and an adding circuit for adding the generated electronic watermark information for digital data to the data read from the recording medium.

Claim 94 (Canceled)

Claim 95 (Canceled)